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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 COLOMBO 001632

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: 2004-05 SRI LANKA FULBRIGHT JUNIOR SCHOLAR PROGRAM

1. THE US-SLFC RECEIVED A RECORD TOTAL OF 597 APPLICATIONS IN RESPONSE TO ITS PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SUBJECT AWARDS PROGRAM. AFTER A PRELIMINARY INTERVIEW OF ALL ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES BY THE COMMISSION'S COMMITTEE ON STUDY AND TRAINING, A SHORT LIST OF 20 CANDIDATES WAS PRESENTED TO THE US-SLFC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A FINAL INTERVIEW HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2003. TWO OF THE CANDIDATES INVITED FOR THE FINAL INTERVIEW WERE UNABLE TO PRESENT THEMSELVES AT THE INTERVIEW.

2. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WERE HIGHLY IMPRESSED BY THE 18 FINALISTS AND SELECTED SIX INDIVIDUALS LISTED BELOW, FOR FURTHER PARTICIPATION IN THE 2004-05 JUNIOR SCHOLAR AWARDS PROGRAM. AS PER LAST YEAR, THE BOARD FOUND EACH OF THESE NOMINEES EMINENTLY WORTHY OF A FULBRIGHT AWARD, BUT DUE TO LIMITED FUNDS WAS COMPELLED TO NOMINATE THREE PRINCIPALS AND THREE ALTERNATES.

3. GIVEN BELOW IS A RANK-ORDERED LISTING OF THE SLATE OF SIX RECOMMENDED CANDIDATES FOR THE 2004-05 FULBRIGHT JUNIOR SCHOLAR PROGRAM.

4. PRINCIPAL NOMINEES:

A. THE TOP-RANKED NOMINEE, AND UNANIMOUS CHOICE OF ALL BOARD MEMBERS, ON THE PANEL OF SIX, MISS HANCHAPOLA APPUHAMILAGE UDENI "MANEL" GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA WITH A SECOND CLASS UPPER DIVISION HONORS PASS IN PSYCHOLOGY. MANEL WAS AWARDED THE FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG FULL SCHOLARSHIP TO FOLLOW THE DIPLOMA IN COUNSELING. WHILE SELECTING COUNSELING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY AS HER MAJOR FIELD OF STUDY, MANEL WISHES TO SPECIALIZE IN CHILD ABUSE AND WAR TRAUMA. CURRENTLY SHE WORKS AS A CHILD CARE OFFICER AT THE NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION AUTHORITY AND ALSO AS A TRAINEE CHILD CARE WORKER AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING AND COUNSELING CENTRE FOR CHILDREN. SRI LANKA IS GREATLY LACKING QUALIFIED PERSONNEL IN THIS AREA AND MISS MANEL'S EXPOSURE TO THE U.S. WILL BENEFIT THE COUNTRY ON HER RETURN.

B. THE SECOND-RANKED PRINCIPAL NOMINEE, MISS SAJIWANI UPEKA "SAMARAKOON" HAS A FIRST CLASS HONORS DEGREE PASS IN ZOOLOGY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA. SAMARAKOON WAS AWARDED A UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDIES. SAMARAKOON IS A TEMPORARY LECTURER AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA. SHE HAS CHOSEN MOLECULAR SYSTEMATICS - AND HER RESEARCH INTERESTS ARE IN THE FIELD OF PHYLOGENETIC SYSTEMATICS AND CLADISTICS. SAMARAKOON OBTAINED A SCORE OF 287 IN THE TOEFL TEST (CBT) HELD IN 11/2002. IN THE GRE TEST TAKEN IN 06/2003 SHE HAS A VERBAL SCORE OF 620 AND A QUANTITATIVE SCORE OF 620 AS WELL. THE ANALYTICAL RESULTS OF THE GRE WILL BE SENT TO HER SUBSEQUENTLY.

C. THE THIRD-RANKED PRINCIPAL NOMINEE, MISS ANDAL "RADHAKRISHNAN", HAS AN LLB UPPER SECOND CLASS HONORS PASS FROM THE NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA AND AN LLM WITH A MERIT PASS FROM THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. RADHAKRISHNAN IS A LEGAL EXECUTIVE OF THE REVENUE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE S.L. MINISTRY OF FINANCE. DURING HER FULBRIGHT GRANT, RADHAKRISHNAN WISHES TO SPECIALIZE IN TAX LAWS.

ALTERNATE NOMINEES:

D. MR. WATHUGALA GAMAGE DULAN MANUJINDA "WATHUGALA", THE FIRST ALTERNATE NOMINEE AND FOURTH ON THE PANEL OF SIX, OBTAINED A FIRST CLASS HONORS PASS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO. WATHUGALA WAS AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP BY THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO AND THE PROFESSOR J.E. JAYASURIYA PRIZE FOR MATHEMATICS ON THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION IN 1998. HE ALSO RECEIVED THE MOHAN MUNASINGHE AWARD FOR THE BEST COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENT, THE CINTEC AWARD FOR THE BEST COMPUTER SCIENCE PROJECT AND THE JOSEPH NALLIAH ARUMUGAM MEMORIAL AWARD FOR THE STUDENT HAVING THE HIGHEST AVERAGE MARKS ON THE RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL DEGREE EXAMINATION IN SCIENCE. WATHUGALA ALSO

RECEIVED THE JUSTIN SAMARASEKERA AWARD FOR THE MOST OUTSTANDING SCIENCE STUDENT OF THE YEAR, 2001. WATHUGALA IS AN ASSISTANT LECTURER AT THE SCHOOL OF COMPUTING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO. HE HAS SELECTED COMPUTER VISION AS HIS AREA OF SPECIALIZATION. WATHUGALA HAS OBTAINED A SCORE OF 260 AT THE TOEFL (CBT) TEST IN 11/2002 AND A SCORE OF 1800 AT THE 09/2002 GRE (GENERAL) TEST.

1E. MR. RUKSHANA SUBASH KURUPPU "NANAYAKKARA", THE SECOND ALTERNATE AND FIFTH NOMINEE ON THE PANEL OF SIX, IS A PROBATIONARY LECTURER IN LAW AT THE FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO. NANAYAKKARA OBTAINED A SECOND CLASS HONORS PASS AT THE LLB EXAMINATION, 1998. NANAYAKKARA HAS AN LLM IN HUMAN RIGHTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG, 2001. THE ASIA FOUNDATION AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP TO NANAYAKKARA TO READ FOR THE LLM IN HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG. HE WAS AWARDED A STUDENTSHIP ON THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST EXAM IN LAWS AND FOR CONTINUOUS PERFORMANCE IN THE LLB FINAL PARTS I, II AND III; THE GATE MUDLIYAR EDMUND PERIS PRIZE AND THE AJITHA PARATHALINGAM PRIZE ON THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST EXAM IN LAWS; A GOLD MEDAL IN THE ADDRESS TO THE JURY CONTEST, IN THE ENGLISH MEDIUM 1994 AND ALSO IN THE SINHALA MEDIUM IN 1998. NANAYAKKARA'S AREA OF SPECIALIZATION IS ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW.

1F. MR. CHAMILA KUMARA "WALGAMPAYA", THE THIRD ALTERNATE AND SIXTH ON THE PANEL OF SIX, IS AN INSTRUCTOR AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA. WALGAMPAYA OBTAINED A SECOND CLASS UPPER DIVISION PASS AT THE B.SC. ENGINEERING IN COMPUTER SCIENCE. HIS AREA OF SPECIALIZATION IS IN DATA MINING, NEURAL NETWORKS AND PATTERN RECOGNITION. WALGAMPAYA HAS TAKEN THE 04/03 TOEFL TEST BUT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A SCORE.

15. ALL NOMINEES WHO HAVE NOT TAKEN THE TOEFL AND/OR GRE TESTS WILL BE REGISTERED AS SOON AS US-SLFC RECEIVES THE TEST FEE WAIVER VOUCHERS FROM IIE. DULY COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS OF THE 2004-05 FULBRIGHT JUNIOR SCHOLAR NOMINEES WILL BE SENT TO IIE BY OCTOBER 10, 2003. REGARDS.

LUNSTEAD